

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-11

SAM-01 CU-02 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NSF-01 OES-03 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 SSM-03 AF-06 SAJ-01 /121 W
----- 012716

R 121617Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6705

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDNI

AMEMBASSY ROME

:AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 105

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT, IS, PLO

SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN FRONT OFFICIALS VISIT MALTA

REF: 75 VALLETTA 1381

1. A THREE-PERSON DELEGATION PRESENTING THE "POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE" VISITED MALTA MARCH 10-12 AT THE INVITATION OF THE MALTESE SOCIALIST YOUTH MOVEMENT. THE PALESTINIAN DELEGATION WAS COMPOSED OF OMAR BEDEWI, A "MR. JOSEPH" (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) AND A "MISS SAMELA" (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN).

2. THIS VISIT WAS ANOTHER IN THE WELL-PUBLICIZED SERIES OF PALESTINIAN "SOLIDARITY" MEETINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN HELD IN MALTA OVER THE PAST YEAR UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF'S
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LABOR PARTY (E.G., SEE REFTTEL). AS USUAL IN THESE

CASES, THE BASIC THEME OF THE VISIT HAS BEEN A PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF THE SUPPORT OF "PROGRESSIVE MALTESE" (E.E., LABOR PARTY ACTIVISTS) FOR PALESTINIAN "LIBERATION" FROM ISRAELI "DOMINATION."

3. DURING THE VISIT, THE PALESTINIAN DELEGATION MET WITH MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE JOSEPH CASSAR, THE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT, EMMANUEL ATTARD BEZZINA, AND HELD A PUBLIC MEETING/PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE MALTA COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS UNION. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PALESTINIAN GROUP RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE IN THE MALTESE PRESS.

4. COMMENT: THE MAIN SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS VISIT LIES IN THE OPPORTUNITY IT AFFORDED PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF TO REAFFIRM THROUGH HIS LABOR PARTY SUPPORTERS HIS PRO-ARAB, ANTI-ISRAELI POLICIES IN MATTERS RELATING TO THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST. THE MALTESE LABOR PARTY HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY ANTI-ISRAELI IN ITS PUBLIC POSTURE, AND SUCH EVENTS AS THIS SERVE TO EMPHASIZE THAT FACT. SMITH

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